

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 08452 262124Z

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SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMMENTS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

1. PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON FOREIGN RELATIONS DURING A PRESS INTERVIEW SEPTEMBER 25. HE SAID, INTER ALIA, THAT RELATIONS WITH THE US WILL BE THOSE "OF NEIGHBOTS RESPECTING THE PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE PREVAILED FOR GENERATIONS IN OUR RELATIONS." LOPEZ PORTILLO ELABORATED THESE PRINCIPLES AS FOLLOWS: "TO RECOGNIZE AND URGE SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH IS ONE OF THE MANIFESTATIONS OF OUR SOVERIGTY; RESPECT FOR OUR RIGHTS; RECOGNITION OF OUR OBLIGATIONS; AND TO PUSH ON ALL FRONTS FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER." NOTE: HIS FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMENTS WERE A MINOR SEGMENT OF AN INTERVIEW DEVOTED LARGELY TO DOMESTIC MATTERS.

2. IN ADDITION, LOPEZ PORTILLO ANNOUNCED (A) THAT THE MEANS FOR CONTROLLING TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES WILL BE IMPROVED AND (B) THAT ARTICLE 27 OF THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE STUDIED AND AMENDED.

3. COMMENT: ARTICLE 27 DEFINES THE TERRITORY, WATERS, AND SEABEDS OF MEXICO AND GENERALLY SPECIFIES WHO MAY OWN AND EXPLOIT THESE AND THE RESOURCES THEY CONTAIN. ALTHOUGH LOPEZ PORTILLO DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THIS ARTICLE OR WHEN THIS WOULD BE DONE, IT APPEARS THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO MEASURES, NOW UNDER STUDY BY THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION, TO ESTABLISH A 200 MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PATRIMONIAL SEA IS ONE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 08452 262124Z

ECHEVERRIA'S CHERISHED GOALS AND WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE PRIOR

TO HIS LEAVING OFFICE DECEMBER 1, 1976.

4. LOPEZ PORTILLO'S EVERY PUBLIC WORD IS NOW SCRUTINIZED AND
ANALYZED BY THE MEDIA FOR SOME TRANSCENDENTAL SIGNIFICANCE WHICH
MAY NOT BE PRESENT. IN MANY CASES, HIS STATEMENTS ARE OFF-THE-
CUFF RESPONSE TO REPORTERS QUESTIONS.
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